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Cut in electricity supply to B. & C. Mills.

* 229 *Q.*—SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government Electricity Department have imposed restrictions on the use of electricity in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.;

(*b*) the length of time when the staggering of electric current has been in force in the said textile industry; and

(*c*) when normal conditions in the supply of electricity would be restored in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Since 1949.

" (*c*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" Due to this 'staggering' period, the workers are forced to work in the second half of the night shift for a period of five hours and fifteen minutes in a continuous stretch, i.e., from 8 p.m. to 1-15 a.m. against the provisions of the Factories Act. May I have an assurance from the Hon. Minister that this restriction will be removed expeditiously? May I know what exactly the reasons are for continuing these restrictions?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The reasons for continuing this staggering of supply are—

' In one case, on account of the failure of the monsoon the hydro-electric systems will have to be supplied energy from the Madras system and therefore some of the power which the Madras thermal station produces will be transmitted to the hydro-electric systems.

The Chief Operating Engineer has reported that the 80,000 lb. boiler of the Basin Bridge Power House extension expected to be commissioned by the first quarter of 1951 was delayed.

In his letter, dated 5th March 1953, the Chief Operating Engineer (North) has written to say that the 15 M.W. Turbo set at 'B' station extensions has not yet been commissioned. Trial running is in progress and the set is expected to be commissioned in April 1953. Due to the heavy cut now imposed in consumption of electric energy in hydro areas all the extra power available in the Madras station has to be transmitted to those areas till June 1953. The letter of the General Secretary of the Madras Labour Union for the removal of the staggering of supply altogether is under the consideration of the Government.' "

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9–10 a.m. SRI C. RAJAM RAMASWAMI :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that a 10,000 K.W. generation set recently commissioned at the Station is now out of commission and lying idle? May I know when this will be brought back to commission?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" There has been a recent breakdown in the 12,500 K.W. alternative set. I do not know when it is likely to be repaired."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Sir, in view of the shortage of power likely to be there for some years to come, will the Government consider the desirability of encouraging industrial units to install private generating plants so that the little energy that may be available in the South may be utilized for agricultural purposes in times of shortage?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Sir, it is left to those private people to have thermal stations as a stand-by."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, obtained their energy from the thermal station in Madras and not through the hydro-electric system where there is a cut imposed due to failure of rains?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I am sorry, Sir, I have not made myself clear. I only said that the energy produced here will be sent to those areas and therefore there will be less and less power here."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, with a view to conserving and providing electricity to such mass employing concerns, why should not Government consider the question of complete cancellation of the grant of electricity to rice mills?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Is it not true, Sir, that the Government are imposing cut on consumption of electricity because this Government believe in darkness?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" Order, order."

Madras Tribes Advisory Council.

* 230 *Q.*—SRI S. VEMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have appointed a Madras Tribes Advisory Council in the current year;

(*b*) if so, who are the members; and

(*c*) what are the functions of the Council?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes.